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Dr. Mahon is deputy chief of the Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She is a pediatrician and epidemiologist who trained as a "disease detective" in CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). The Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch is responsible for national surveillance for enteric diseases. Its mission is to protect people from these diseases, which can be transmitted through contaminated food or water, as well as from contact with infected people or animals. The branch also conducts epidemiologic studies on the burden, trends, and sources of diseases caused by Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria, and Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli, among other pathogens, and it conducts investigation of outbreaks of listeriosis, vibriosis, botulism, and other enteric illnesses.